

# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 2

February, 1897

No. 2

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These two sets are recommended to the attention of librarians of General Libraries. Sample numbers will be sent on application.

## The Boston Book Company

(CHARLES C. SOULE, Pres.)

15½ Beacon St., BOSTON, MASS.

When writing please mention PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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## Traveling Libraries in Pennsylvania

Whether for good or ill, the days have gone by when a book-user accumulated a volume now and a volume then, till he could finally boast that he had a couple of hundred volumes which formed his library and were altogether his own. These libraries undoubtedly indicated the breadth or narrowness of the man and were a good indication of his literary scope.

The human race has become today a collection of omnivorous readers. For this result the innumerable successors of Gutenberg are responsible. But beyond printers, the publishers are even more responsible. New books, reprints of old books, fac-similes of manuscripts, pour from the press with a rapidity that realizes Solomon's dictum that of the making of new books there is no end. Reading is undoubtedly one of the greatest civilizers of the age, and as soon as it became recognized that people would read, it became a necessity in the interests of good civilization, that good literature should be put at the doors of the people, in order that they might not feed upon unhealthy printed matter. Libraries became no longer a place in which only learned men could study or vegetate. The necessity of providing the best reading for the greatest number of the people at the least cost became a necessity of our age.

It is an old story today how, in 1850, the two great nations of English-speaking people simultaneously recognized

the necessity for free libraries. These have multiplied beyond all expectation, and yet before fifty years have expired, it has been found that even they were insufficient in their methods to meet the real necessities of the growing youth and the student old age of the great multitude.

The old adage that Necessity is the mother of invention, received a new indorsement when the traveling library was invented to fill up the gap that was discovered. Place your free library in as many cities and towns as you will, there must yet remain outskirts of cities, big fields of teeming labor, and multitudes of persons who are unable, by reason of their occupation or place of residence, to visit these libraries, numerous as they are, and procure books for home use. It is hardly necessary to refer to the familiar instances of mining districts and large business houses employing even hundreds of work people who are not reached by the facilities, liberal as they are, of the free library. To such aggregations of people the traveling library is an inestimable blessing. In America this has been realized in many of the states and it is to be hoped that ere ten years have passed, there will not be one state in the Union in which the traveling libraries system shall not be an accomplished fact. No graver question arises, however, than What is the best method of management to be devised for the introduction and development of this system? It is probably an admitted fact that district

school libraries managed by boards of education, the very numerous Sunday-school libraries, and similar plans have not proved the success that was hoped. This is almost entirely due to the fact that libraries of this description can not, from the very nature of things, grow to be sufficiently large to compensate for the expense and labor bestowed upon their institution and management. It would be indecorous not to recognize with gratitude the efforts that have been made in promoting these libraries, and, if a better method can be devised, is it not probable that even those who have worked the hardest in these directions, will cordially welcome another and a newer method of accomplishing the end in view? It is not reasonable to hope that persons who have gone through the shelves of these libraries and perused the one, two, three, or four hundred books which constitute the number of volumes in the bulk of these libraries will peruse them again and again. The essence of a successful library is renewal; the old books become books of reference, or, at the best, books to be referred to and taken out for some specific purpose once in a while. Neither the funds nor opportunity exists to keep on buying and adding to the library, proportionately to the wants of an ordinary neighborhood.

The traveling library is an earnest attempt to cope with this difficulty. A hundred volumes placed in a suitable room in some mountain resort becomes an absolute godsend to the residents of that locality. During the summer months the men, women, and possibly the children are busy from daylight to bedtime, and little or no reading can be done, but when the visiting population has left and the long afternoons and evenings of the winter set in, the fact that a hundred or two hundred volumes which have not been read before, are on the shelves of a small local library, gives a zest to the reading inclination of the villagers, and hours and days that would have been spent in idleness or worse, are spent in happy perusal of good historical romances,

interesting biographies, fascinating travels, or in poring over bound volumes of Harper, Atlantic monthly, or the delightful St. Nicholas. Then comes the pinch. November, December, and January quickly pass and the supply is used up. The books have been read, and just there comes in the success of the traveling libraries system. A postal card to headquarters and a package by freight train settle the whole trouble. The hundred volumes leave the mountain resort and are dispatched to some mining town where they are entirely fresh, and another hundred books are sent to the waiting and eager readers of the lake village. In this way one hundred volumes become a thousand. They go on in a circle to ten different places and accomplish the same result as would have been obtained (following the old method) by the purchase of a thousand volumes.

It seems, therefore, that the persons best to be intrusted with the carrying out of this system are the boards of trustees already existing in, and having the charge of, large city free libraries. In Pennsylvania, for instance, there are several such boards and the work could easily be accomplished if the necessary funds were provided to enable the librarians of Allegheny, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Pittsburg, and Philadelphia to have for use in their own particular districts a certain number of these collections of 25, 50, and 100v., which could be kept in active circulation. It is a task that would impose much additional labor on the already hardworked heads of these institutions, but it must be remembered that there are no persons who would be better suited to judge of the selection of books best to be made, the localities which need the libraries, or to superintend with the greatest economy this important feature of modern library work.

This is a matter in which all the state could benefit alike, and it is right to hope that the state legislature will be willing to provide sufficient



funds to enable it to be carried out. The scheme is to be brought before the two houses of the legislature in the spring, and it is not likely that any one of the heads of the libraries in this state will hesitate to promote the attainment of the end desired. This is not a case in which the creation of a new organization is requisite; the existing boards of trustees are created for the sole purpose of promoting library work, and in their hands it is certain that the extension of their work will find the greatest results from their good will and experience. The system has been tried tentatively within the limits of the city of Philadelphia, and it was speedily found that there were large districts of inhabitants to whom the privileges of the free library afforded less aid than was desirable.

Before this is in print, from 20 to 30 of these traveling libraries will have been placed in different localities; the earliest of these were sent out three or four months since, and the books are already beginning to be transferred from one place to another. Those to whom books have been sent, express lively satisfaction at the benefits they have received, but of course, no books have been sent outside of the city limits. Petitions from 20 to 30 other places have been received, but these being outside of the city limits, have to wait the action of the legislature, before any active response to the appeals can be made. It is a case in which the hands of those who are moving in the matter would be immeasurably strengthened by coöperation.

Let those places that feel the want of a traveling library address to the boards of trustees above referred to, petitions signed by 24 persons, asking for the privileges of the traveling libraries system. This will show how widespread the desire is to have these libraries, and will be the best assurance to the committee on appropriations at Harrisburg, when they come to consider the matter officially, that in making a grant of from ten to fifteen thousand dollars a year for the estab-

lishment and maintenance of this system in the state of Pennsylvania, they will be carrying out the wishes of a large number of their constituents. The committee always have a difficult task in making the appropriations answer the large number of purposes they are asked to subsidize, and from which they have to make their selection. Let it once be seen by them that it is a widespread cry, to come over and help us, and not one legislator will be found who will hesitate to do his utmost to further so benevolent and useful a movement.

#### Circulation of the Stout Free Traveling Libraries, in Dunn Co., Wis.

Library Association.	No. of Borrowers.	Circulation.	Librarian.
Amy.....	50	206	M. H. Knott
Barker.....	28	120	W. A. French
Cedar Falls.....	53	209	Mrs L. Plemon
Colfax.....	55	163	Minnie Mathews
Davis Home Circle	28	114	Mrs Lena Clack
Downing.....	25	265	U. G. Blood
Dunnville.....	39	123	Mrs A. J. Cillyhan
Elk Mound.....	27	160	A. B. Ausman
Hay Creek.....	27	102	Wilson Fluent
Knapp.....	42	174	W. H. Frances
Pleasant Valley...	34	187	Mabel Goff
Total,	408	1,823	

The libraries have remained, on an average, six months in a place.

The Memorial free library, from which the traveling libraries are sent out, is free to the county as well as the city, and many of the country people avail themselves of its privileges.

STELLA LUCAS.

As only a few answers to the new proposition, relating to the printed catalog cards, have yet been received, the A. L. A. Publishing section will defer the undertaking till February 1, in the hope that a sufficient number of subscriptions may be received in the course of the month of January.

W: C. LANE, *Treas.*

### Traveling Libraries of the University of Chicago

Zella Allen Dixon

The traveling libraries of the University of Chicago are carefully selected libraries of reference books on certain given subjects, packed neatly in a strong box and sent to some center or class, where a member of the university faculty is delivering a course of instruction. The books are selected with special reference to the subject under investigation, and precede the lecturer by a few days. The books are distributed among the readers, and the students are in a measure prepared to secure the best results from the course given.

At present there are in our Extension library department a total of 3,726 volumes, of which 1,343 are at present in various centers in active use. The size of the libraries sent differs with the size and importance of the class, the average size being 38 volumes. Great care is taken in the selection of these books to make them the best 38 books which can be procured for the subject. The libraries are not selected from the stock the university library happens to have on hand, but are purchased directly from the list furnished by the lecturer.

The books are intended only for use by those taking the courses, but special arrangements have been made by which any not taking the courses may have use of a book, renting it at the rate of 30 cents a term of six weeks. In order to encourage students to collect and own their own books, all books in the extension libraries may be purchased at any of the centers, at the price paid by the university when buying in large quantities at special rates.

The following slip is pasted in each book: This book is charged by the university library to a responsible borrower. At the expiration of the period for which it is loaned, it must be returned, prepaid, to the university. Should anyone wish to purchase it, however, this slip may be returned with \$— in its stead.

Through this plan the stock of books is being constantly renewed. Old courses, not to be repeated, no longer need the libraries, and they are sold at once to the centers and the money used to add new material. These books are *good* books and must leave their impress on many minds. They have been cordially received and the demand for them is daily increasing.

Librarians in small towns who find it difficult to supply from such meager stores the reference books demanded by those taking university lectures, are especially grateful to have these libraries sent direct from the university. No charge is made for the use of the books, and only loss of a book or gross injury to it is subject to fines. The amount of territory and the number of people reached are far greater than could be accomplished by public or proprietary libraries. The latter sends a book at a time to one person for one or two weeks; the former lends to a whole community for a regular school term. The one needs the borrower to come for the book; the other sends the book to those needing it, going often in remote farming districts to those whose book privileges have been few.

### Home Mission Traveling Libraries

The traveling library idea has now been adopted as an aid to home missions, in the interests of religion as well as for education and good citizenship. Different Home mission traveling libraries, containing twenty-five volumes each, are provided, each to be lent for three months at a nominal price to a public school, Sunday school, or young people's society, where some responsible person would have charge of it. At the end of three months the library can be exchanged for another, or two or more collections may be lent at the same time. In each set of books there is at least one volume on missions, temperance, good citizenship, and Sunday-school work. The system has been welcomed in Kansas, and is worthy of a welcome in many other sections.

## Traveling Libraries in Nebraska

The traveling library plan inaugurated by the woman's clubs of Nebraska, seems to be working advantageously, as reported by Mrs G. M. Lambertson, of Lincoln, who is librarian of the Federation of woman's clubs in that state. She says of the movement: It is growing slowly, but steadily, and is winning strong friends. It is sadly hampered by lack of funds, since it is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. The advisability of asking state aid through the legislature was discussed, but there seemed to be opposition to the idea and we are now depending solely upon the woman's clubs for aid. Outlines for the study of United States, German, English, French, and art history, English and American literature, have been prepared and books purchased with special reference to these courses. The books are ordered by the librarian, cataloged, a record made of each one, and then sent out to the several clubs in lots of ten to twelve volumes. They are kept at the home of the librarian until the call comes, and then in response to a request from any club, a member of the Federation is sent out. They may be retained until the close of the club year in June. In case of loss or damage the club is held responsible—as there is strict account kept of each book—where it is, date of distribution, and condition.

Edna D. Bullock, of the State university library, read a most excellent paper on this subject before the Nebraska library association at its recent meeting. She gave a full account of the practical workings of the idea in the states which have traveling library systems, and of the libraries circulated by individuals, associations, and other libraries. She then gave the needs which call for traveling libraries, and particularly the needs of Nebraska. She made a strong plea for library legislation, which would give the state both a library commission and a system of traveling libraries.

## A Bibliography of Fine Art

Early in March the Library Bureau will publish for the American Library Association an annotated Bibliography of fine art, comprising a thousand titles. To consult its pages will be to visit a great library in the company of men who have mastered its departments of fine art, and who place at one's service the information and the judgments matured in lifetimes of thoughtful study. Russell Sturgis, who acts as our guide through the alcoves of architecture, painting, sculpture and the allied arts, is president of the Fine Art Federation of New York. For some years he practiced architecture with distinction. Long residence in Europe has made him familiar with the great art of the past and present, while its literature has equally engaged his sympathetic interest. He has contributed to the Nation from the first number, and articles from his pen frequently appear in the journals devoted to art. Last autumn the Macmillan Company published his European architecture, which in the most discriminating quarters is accepted as the best work in its field.

To read the titles which Mr Sturgis has selected from the teeming shelves of modern art publication, and to listen to what he says about each book, is to enjoy the guidance of a mind amply endowed and equipped on both the artistic and literary sides, which brings us only the cream of good things, which can judiciously compare artist with artist, author with author, and whose incidental remarks betray a candid and refreshing individuality. In presenting us to the worthiest exponents of each great school of art, Mr Sturgis is careful to insure that painters and sculptors, such as those of Italy, shall be studied in the light of Italian criticism. Yet if criticism and interpretation should begin at home, he would not have them stay there, hence the inclusion of such a review as that of contemporary English art by Ernest Chesneau.

If we purpose to visit the galleries

of Rome, Florence, Dresden and other treasure-houses of great art, we are referred to their most trustworthy catalogs. Perhaps we desire to journey still farther abroad and know something of the art of the Orient; in this event its most helpful literature is placed in our hands, with stress on the books about Japan, the most artistical nation of our time. Modern methods of reproduction have done much to inform and elevate popular taste, so Mr Sturgis has a word regarding the etchings and photogravures which most worthily copy the world's masterpieces; he singles out for especial praise the engravings of our countryman, Timothy Cole.

In tracing the sources and development of ancient art, explorers have within a decade made it necessary to revise the verdicts of the older writers; we have accordingly some mention of the latest published discoveries on the sites of Mycenæ, Tiryns, and other cities of antiquity. While the pick and shovel have been bringing to light within recent years fragments of ruined temples and of statuary, they have also unearthed much treasure in the way of pottery, medals, coins, armor, engraved gems and the work of the goldsmith. These vases, rings, seals—what not—appeal to many of us much more than the frieze or torso whose fragments for centuries may have covered them. Each of the minor arts for which they stand has its own interesting story, and the best of these are indicated by Mr Sturgis. He mentions also the most useful guides to the sister arts comparatively or quite modern,—bookbinding, etching, engraving, and that revelry in line, mass, and color which assaults us in the poster.

Uniting as he does both artistic and literary cultivation, Mr Sturgis sees how faulty are the judgments of the critics who are either only artists or only writers; he therefore gives precedence to men like Lafarge, Linton, and Coffin, who write upon the arts they have with signal success practiced with the burin and the brush. He warns us more than

once that the language of art is distinct from that of literature, and only imperfectly to be translated into it. He maintains that the point of view of art held by the moralist, or the religious teacher, is not that of the artist, who is swayed wholly by artistic and structural considerations. The emotion and sentiment which critics of the Ruskin type read into the work of such a man as Michelangelo provoke our guide to impatience. Anecdotal pictures, too, he would evidently place in some such minor category as that reserved for delineative music by the critic who now escorts us through the alcoves of musical literature.

Henry E. Krehbiel, who provides the second and concluding part of this bibliography, is musical editor of the New York Tribune, and the acknowledged chief of metropolitan musical critics. At home and throughout the Union, he has won equal fame as a lecturer. Last December Scribner published his *How to listen to music*, which sprang at once into an acceptance accorded in a much more leisurely way to his *Studies in the Wagnerian drama*. We all know how much commoner the appreciation of music is than the talent to execute music. To increase this appreciation by informing and educating it in sensible fashion is the life-work of Mr Krehbiel.

His pages begin by pointing us to the chief histories of music, general and special, of countries, periods, and schools, of notation and of instruments in their gradual development. The literature of ancient and mediæval music next receives attention. Folk-song and national music follow. Then biography, with a special department for Wagner, of whom our guide is a devoted, but open-eyed disciple. The science and æsthetics of music are now taken up, with brief mention of critical and analytical works. So many valuable books on music are comparatively old and out of print that Mr Krehbiel comes to our aid with a list of second-hand dealers in America and Europe. He concludes with a short selection from



the contemporary periodical literature of music.

Alike to the librarian, the student, and the every-day reader, this bibliography will come as an informing and inspiring help. \_\_\_\_\_

GEORGE ILES.

### Memorial to Sir Walter Scott

A movement is being carried on by a committee of noted gentlemen in England to place a memorial of Sir Walter Scott in Westminster abbey. A bust of Scott executed by John Hutchinson, R. S. A., has been accepted as suitable by the dean of Westminster. The estimated cost of placing it in the abbey will be about £700. The amount already subscribed is £400. An opportunity is given to the American public to share in the tribute, and subscription lists have been opened in Boston, at the public library and at the Athenæum. The maximum contribution is fixed at \$25, but it is the desire to secure a large number of small subscriptions and so make the list widely representative of American admirers of the celebrated writer.

Such subscribers as prefer to remit by mail may do so, to Fiske Warren, 220 Devonshire street, or to J. M. Kay, 4 Park Row, Boston.

All money received through any source will be promptly sent, free of expense, to the treasurer of the memorial fund in Great Britain.

### List of Subject Headings

The edition of List of subject headings is nearly sold out, and the A. L. A. Publishing section is contemplating a new edition. If any libraries or catalogs have any notes of corrections, additions or other suggestions I shall be glad to receive them.

GARDNER M. JONES.

The largest library in the world is the National library of France, founded by Louis XIV, and which now contains 1,400,000 books, 300,000 pamphlets, 175,000 manuscripts, 300,000 maps and charts, 150,000 coins and gold medals, 1,300,000 engravings, and 100,000 portraits.

### An Exhibition of Mounted Pictures

The Denver public library gave an exhibition of mounted pictures during the sessions of the State teachers' association held in Denver during the holidays. The movement was indorsed by the artists' club of that city and judging by the reports of the exhibition it was a great success. Mr Dana says of it: The Colorado State teachers' association holds its annual meeting here each year. The attendance on this occasion, at the several sessions for the four days, varied from three to seven hundred. Our exhibition was in the main hall at the foot of the stairs, and everyone attending the association meeting had to pass beside it and in full view of it. We placed around the hall and under a large electrolier, five screens covered with burlap, each screen divided into three panels, each panel about four feet wide and seven feet high. On these screens, as the circular shows, we placed examples of different kinds of illustrative work. The exhibition was well attended; it aroused considerable interest; it was alluded to in two or three of the papers before the association, and some of its departments; we distributed about five hundred circulars concerning pictures and illustrations that are art, and altogether it seemed to have been a considerable success.

I have long been of the opinion, which I have preached in season and out of season for four or five years, that one of the best ways to promote art education in this country is to call the attention of average people to the art in our illustrated journals. Of course I am well aware that pictorial art in any of its forms covers only a small portion of the art field, but it is something to which the attention of people in general can be perhaps most easily drawn, and in which their interest can be perhaps most easily aroused.

The work began here with the mounted pictures about six years ago and has progressed slowly and steadily up to the present time. It has, as such

movements are likely to do, taken a sudden start and increased very rapidly in the past six to nine months. The intelligent and appreciative interest in pictorial art shown by a large number of our teachers and by a very large number of the pupils in the upper grades of the schools is exceedingly gratifying, and I believe will be of great benefit to the general art movement which is headed at present in the city by the Artists' club.

#### **The Massachusetts Library Club**

The executive committee have decided not to resume the preparation of the lists of selected fiction. After the question of continuance was referred to them at the last meeting of the club, the committee sent circulars to the 600 persons who had received the lists, asking earnestly for replies to inquiries about the real, practical value of the lists. From the replies received, about 230, it appeared that, while the lists were highly praised, the former method of publication, though preferred by a majority, could not be continued. The 71 lists were found to be practically useful to a limited class of libraries widely scattered over the country. The committee, therefore, resolved not to assume for the club the expense and burden of this work, by their own authority, but to report their conclusions in detail at a club meeting.

The next meeting of the club will be held at Hartford, Conn., on February 3, at the union meeting of New England associations, under the auspices of the Connecticut library association.

W. H. TILLINGHAST, *Secretary*.

Published yearly statistics show that of \$500,000 spent in 20 of the leading libraries of this country \$170,000 was devoted to books, while other expenses consumed \$358,000. In the Mercantile library of New York city it costs 14 cents to circulate a volume; in the Astor, 14½ cents, or 27 cents on each reader; in Columbia college library, 21½ cents per reader; in the library company of Philadelphia, 26 cents per volume, or 10 cents per head.

#### **The Traveling Library in Colorado**

To the Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In the December issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES an account was given of the work of a Traveling library in Colorado with a request for further information upon the subject.

Through the courtesy of the public library of our city, for a small consideration, the Department of science and philosophy of the woman's club of Denver is enabled to furnish books of reference for club women throughout the state. Thus far, this is an experiment of which time will show the futility. The librarian of the department has received many letters of appreciation from clubs to which circulars have been sent—many books have been sent out, and conditions promptly complied with. At present not more than five books may be sent at one time to one address. In all cases the president of the club is held responsible for compliance with conditions.

It is hoped by this method to stimulate the forming of new clubs, and encourage the desire for town libraries in sparsely settled sections of our state. The population of Colorado is for the most part composed of well-educated people from all sections of our country, who have come to regain their health, to retrieve lost, or search for new fortunes. Our women realize that in order to keep up with these times of progressive thought, personal effort is necessary, for unlike our eastern cities learning seldom comes to us; we have to "search that we may find," which we truly do.

There are already 60 clubs in the Colorado Federation of woman's clubs, with perhaps as many more which are unfederated.

It is hoped that some legislation during the present session of the legislature will so remodel our State library that it shall embrace this work of sending books wherever needed throughout the state; thus supporting a state traveling library.

One word for our club, which has a

membership of 650, which is divided into six departments, all of which are reaching out to help humanity in the way that directly appeals to them. The Department of science and philosophy has been waiting for something, in the meantime promoting self-culture, when this work which specially appealed to them was presented by one of their members, so that now from this woman's club are radiating love, goodwill, and substantial assistance to many a yearning soul, as well as to our city and state in general.

MARY P. MOORE.

Librarian Department science and philosophy of woman's club of Denver.

### A Plea for Help

To the Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In the article, Suggestions to beginners in cataloging, in the December number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, a systematic course of varied reading is recommended as a means of keeping up one's interest in reading, which is apt to be neglected by one busy with books in a mechanical way. While reading this, the thought occurred to me that perhaps if the suggestion were made, some one of experience would prepare such a list for publication in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, and I venture to make the suggestion.

There is also another question which has been in my mind for some time, suggested by my own experience. Could not library science be taught in a course of university extension lectures? I think there are many who would avail themselves of such a course, given in an accessible place, who can not afford to spend two years in the library school. Of course it could not be so complete or thorough as the regular instruction, but it might enable some to get a start, and others who are already in the work without having had the advantage of previous thorough instruction, to improve themselves.

MARY E. REMMER.

Chicago public library.

### American Library Association

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 6, 1897.

A special meeting of the American Library Association is hereby called to be held on Saturday, Feb. 6, 1897, at 2:30 P. M. in Room 15, Hamilton hall, Columbia university, New York city.

The special business is to consider the reincorporation of the American Library Association under the laws of the United States, as stated in the following request:

Wm H. Brett, Esq.,

President American Library Association.

In accordance with the by-laws of the Association, the undersigned members of the A. L. A. request you to call a special meeting of the Association at the earliest date practicable, to consider and act upon the following questions, to-wit:

Whether it be expedient to reincorporate the association under the laws of the United States, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., and with a provision, if feasible, that the Association through its council or otherwise shall, from time to time, act as a visiting board of the National Library (Library of Congress), together with such other provisions as may seem advisable, involving relations with appropriate federal departments.

Herbert Putnam, Margaret D. McGuffey, Wm I. Fletcher, Nina E. Browne, Thorvald Solberg, James L. Whitney, Hiller C. Wellman, Wm C. Lane, Chas. C. Soule, F. Richmond Fletcher.

Rutherford P. Hayes, Wm H. Brett,  
Secretary. President.

January 1, 1897.

One of the announcements of the Atlantic monthly for the coming year, under the head of Education, is "The extension of the use of libraries—the part they play in the new era of library development, in the cultivation of the masses."

## Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau - - - - - Publishers

M. E. AHERN - - - - - Editor

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Subscription - - - - -	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library - - - - -	\$4 a year
Single number - - - - -	20 cents

In answer to the many inquiries received in regard to the index to Vol. I of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, we would say that the index is being prepared at this time and will be issued at the earliest date possible. The idea of closing the volume with the year was taken up suddenly at the moment of going to press, and there was not time to furnish anything more than was given. The many library meetings held during the holidays interfered somewhat with the work, but it is being pushed to completion.

THE January number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES was devoted, chiefly, to the educational side of library reading. This month we present still another able assistant of the work, traveling libraries. In a thinly populated country, with centers of book collections far apart, it is the best way by which books can be circulated among the people. For each school district to attempt to keep up a library without the aid of the principle of traveling libraries, usually results in a dissipation of means and library force, and generally ends in the abandonment of all library attempts.

By having a strong central library by which these books can be circulated, more lasting good work can be done than in any other way. It has seemed to the writer, however, that unless the State library has many more opportunities allowed it by law to carry on its own legitimate work than most of the State libraries do now, this work can be done better by public libraries of particular sections of a state undertaking the work and carrying it on in the adjoining territory, whose needs will be better understood by them, and with which they will be in sympathy. But from all these discussions and experiments are bound to come a broader wisdom and better judgment in providing means of popular education for the future.

THERE was held in Indianapolis, December 29-31, a new departure in library work. A library institute it was called, and consisted of practical demonstrations of some of the established rules of library science, rather than set speeches on formal topics.

The outline of the work as presented is given elsewhere. The important thing of the library institute was that it gave librarians of the small libraries and library assistants a chance to see and hear what is meant by library science and modern library methods. It gave every librarian present a chance to make comparison between the technical work of the library training class and the work done in his own library. Several towns contemplating having new libraries were represented by members of the boards having the matter in charge. An urgent request was made for a longer session of the same kind next year, which goes to show that those present felt repaid for the expense of attending. There is no reason why this idea of library institutes should not grow and much good result. The present high grade of methods of teaching was reached through the means of just such meetings and a constant exchange of experiences of those engaged in the work. Many commu-



nities have not the good fortune to be served by trained librarians, but still have bright, capable people in charge, who can take up the hints and advice given at even these short meetings and do better work in their libraries than they otherwise would. Let library institutes go on!

It would be a very helpful thing toward the passage of Mr. Crandall's document bill if librarians throughout the country would write to their senators and urge them to vote for the bill. If it fails to pass the senate this session, it will have to go back to the House and all the work be done again. Send a special note urging action to the senate committee on printing—Senators Hale, Hansbrough, and Gorman.

A resolution has been passed by the library associations of Colorado, Illinois, and some other states urging the officers of the A. L. A. to authorize the secretary to spend at least \$500 from available funds of the Association in missionary work in the library cause. Good! The presence of the secretary or some other able representative of the A. L. A. at the meetings of state library associations, library clubs, and meetings to promote a library sentiment would be of the utmost value to those who are carrying on this work. PUBLIC LIBRARIES urges every one who would like to see this idea of sending out a messenger from the A. L. A. developed, to write his wishes briefly and send to the special meeting of the A. L. A. before February 5, 1897. All communications addressed to the Secretary of the A. L. A., care Columbia college library, New York City, will reach the Association.

THE question of an expenditure of certain of the funds of the A. L. A., for wakening an interest in the association and securing new members for it was forcibly presented by recent visits of the secretary. He was invited by one of the smaller library associations to attend its meetings, which he did. As a direct result of this visit, a considerable number of people became inter-

ested in the A. L. A., and we venture the prediction that it will bring enough new members into the A. L. A. to pay the expense of the secretary's visit. And right here is the point which PUBLIC LIBRARIES insists upon. The association which invited the secretary's attendance was not able financially to bear all the expense incurred thereby. This did not deter the secretary from lending the influence of his presence to the library interests represented, but it was kindness to the small association and missionary work for the A. L. A., for which he had to pay from his own means. We protest against any such state of affairs in so large and financially strong a body as the A. L. A. It is an embarrassing situation for its members and an injustice to the secretary. It may be said by some, that if the smaller associations cannot afford to pay for a visit of the secretary then he should not be invited. But is this the spirit and purpose of the A. L. A.? PUBLIC LIBRARIES thinks not. If it has any purpose, it is to assist those who need its help, not to minister to those who are able to go alone and who take an interest in the A. L. A. for pastime.

THE first annual report of the Wisconsin library commission is one of the most valuable library publications we have seen. It tells not only of the work done by the commission itself, but gives full reports of the work which the commission has caused others to do. It is a text book of library economy valuable alike to all, however remotely interested in library matters.

THE Bibliography of fine art, of which Mr. Iles writes elsewhere in these pages, will be a welcome addition to the tool chest of many librarians, and will have an additional value from being edited by Mr. Iles, who is also supervising the printing of it.

PRATT Institute monthly devotes the January number mainly to libraries. Very interesting accounts are given of the most celebrated libraries at home and abroad.

### Library Meetings

**California**—The annual meeting of the library association was held January 8, at the Mechanics institute. President Rowell in a brief address reviewed the work of the association for the year. He dwelt in particular on the good accomplished in bringing the librarians into closer and more cordial relations, and outlined what might be accomplished in the future.

Professor W. D. Armes, of the university of California, read an extended paper on the Plantin press and museum of Antwerp, in which he described the many beauties of that unique depository, illustrating with many photographs and sketches.

Mr Kimball made a short address in which he showed the importance of State library commissions, and urged establishing one for California.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the publishers of Harper's monthly, Scribner's magazine, Review of Reviews, and of all other periodicals, be earnestly requested to regularly forward to libraries and subscribers, title page, table of contents, or index for each volume with the concluding number of the same, or, in the case of weeklies, as soon as possible thereafter. A. M. JELLISON, Sec'y.

**Colorado**—On December 11 the members of the C. L. A. journeyed to Colorado Springs, where, after being well entertained by the local members, and President and Mrs Slocum, of Colorado College, we assembled in the Coburn library of the college and the following program was carried out before a large and interested audience: The relation of the college library to the town library, Rev. William F. Slocum, LL.D., president of Colorado college; District libraries, Mrs A. J. Peavey, State superintendent of public instruction; A library building for a growing town, J. C. Dana, librarian public library, Denver; The power of the book, Louis R. Ehrich, Colorado Springs.

The association will, during the com-

ing winter, as part of the year's work, urge the passage, by the State legislature, of a law creating a State library commission. The duty of this commission will be to encourage the establishment of libraries in cities and towns throughout the state; to supply information and advice to those wishing it in regard to the selecting, buying, cataloging, and circulating of books, as well as in regard to other details of the proper working of a library. To this State library commission, if it is established, every library in the state which is supported wholly or in part by public funds will make an annual report, and the commission itself will report annually to the governor. The commission will take pains to spread information in regard to the present library laws of Colorado, and what may and may not properly be done under them, in the way of establishing and maintaining public and school libraries.

The C. L. A. holds regular monthly meetings on the second Friday of each month. The places of such meetings and the programs for them are decided upon and announced in due season by the executive committee.

The present officials are: President, A. E. Whitaker, librarian State university, Boulder; treasurer, J. W. Chapman, librarian McClelland public library, Pueblo; secretary, Herbert E. Richie, City library, Denver.

**Illinois**—The first annual meeting of the library association met in Springfield, January 20. The principal matter under discussion was a library commission for the state. The committee appointed at the called meeting through the chairman, Miss Hinrichsen, reported progress in the matter, and that while the prospect of legislative action was not very encouraging, it was not altogether hopeless. The need of missionary work in the interests of the library movement in Illinois was forcibly stated by a number present, and a resolution was unanimously passed, asking the council of the A. L. A. to consider the advisability of authorizing the secretary to begin a work of that kind in

Illinois, as well as other states, and that his expenses be paid by the A. L. A. from funds of the association that may be available for this purpose. An invitation from the library section of the N. E. A. to send a delegate from the State association to the meeting in Milwaukee in July, was presented and accepted, and a delegate will be appointed by the president. An interesting discussion followed on the Benefit to small libraries of a State library association. A resolution was passed extending appreciation and the thanks of the association to Miss Sharp for her work in the Bureau of information. A vote of thanks was also extended to Miss Moore for her able work as secretary during the past year, and expressing regret that it would be impossible for her to serve longer as secretary. The officers elected for the ensuing year are, president, Col. J. W. Thompson, Evanston; vice-presidents, E. S. Wilcox, Peoria, and G. B. Meleney, Library Bureau, Chicago; secretary Ange V. Milner, Normal; treasurer P. S. Bichnell, Champaign. A number of new librarians were present, and the meeting was thoroughly enjoyable.

**Indiana**—It was decided at a meeting of the executive board of the Indiana library association last October, to make the annual meeting of the association this year a Library Institute, to give the larger part of the time to instruction in modern library methods and in administration. In accordance with this view, arrangements were made with Cornelia Marvin of the department of library economy of Armour institute, Chicago, for a series of lessons along these lines. The library institute was well advertised throughout the state, and when it opened on Tuesday morning, December 29, there was an attendance of 60 persons more or less actively engaged in library work. This being the first library institute on record, there was some curiosity as to what would be done. After a few remarks by the president, R. F. Kautz, and the secretary's report, the first work, ordering

and accessioning, was begun by Miss Marvin, by talking of the selection of books to form a library. Different blanks and other means of securing suggestions were explained. The proportion of classes of books as given in A. L. A. Primer, in PUBLIC LIBRARIES was recommended, though local needs might modify it.

The question of periodicals took up the rest of the morning session and caused much discussion. It was conceded to start with, that most medium-sized libraries would have from \$100 to \$150 a year to spend in periodical literature. The question was, what would this money buy? Nearly everybody present took part in this discussion, and after an hour's deliberation the list recommended was found to be as follows:

The Atlantic, Harper's, Century, Scribner's, Harper's Young People, Youth's Companion, St Nicholas, Arena, Forum, North American Review, Review of Reviews, Harper's Weekly, Outlook, McClure's, London Graphic, Modern Art, Nineteenth Century, Blackwood's, Edinburgh magazine, Critic, The Dial, The Nation, Publishers' Weekly, Kindergarten magazine, Popular Science monthly, Scientific American, Engineering, Art Amateur, Life, Outing, Ladies' Home Journal. The list price of this combination of periodicals was found to be \$119.25, which with the discount allowed by the publishers to public libraries would amount to about \$100.

The afternoon session was fully occupied with a discussion of methods of classification and cataloging, Miss Marvin closely following the line of instruction in these matters as practiced in the library schools. There was a full and free discussion by those present, and much good will doubtless come from the comparison of methods used.

The evening session was given to the reading of a paper by Catherine Merrill on The art of criticism. The company met in the parlors of the Denison, where all made themselves comfortable in easy chairs. The paper

was read in a conversational tone and manner that were delightful. Miss Merrill reviewed the effect of criticism on the different writers of all ages. The critic has a threefold duty—to himself, to the author, and to the reader. A critic to be able should be good. He directs attention to the beautiful, the noble, and the good. He also points out the bad, if he is honest in his work. We owe a grateful reverence to one who has given us a good book, but we owe it to none to call ugliness beauty, awkwardness grace, falsehood truth, or wrong in any way right. Black is black, crooked is crooked, wrong is wrong, whatever the season or whatever the place. Miss Merrill was listened to with marked attention, and much appreciation of the paper was expressed.

Wednesday morning was devoted to the technical instruction in shelf work, charging systems, and binding and repair of books. Miss Marvin had samples prepared beforehand for all the work, and used these and the blackboard freely to illustrate her talks.

Wednesday afternoon was given up to a popular program for the benefit of those not actively engaged in library work, and yet who had an interest in its movements. A large number of school people and club members were present.

A. V. Babine, librarian of Indiana university, read one of the most interesting papers of the session on Problems and possibilities of a college library. While perhaps the subject is an old one, it was presented in an interestingly fresh way by Mr Babine's subtle but mild sarcasm, leveled at the well-known weaknesses of library architecture, administration, and purposes. Among other things he said: A college library is next to useless without a good dictionary catalog, fully representing the contents of the stacks, but this catalog should not take the place of indexes to individual books.

It is easier to enumerate the requisites of a library building than to find a library possessing them. Oftentimes a building is erected by one who never made a study of library literature, but

who with infatuated pride fills the landscape with towers and turrets, arches and carvings, gargoyles and dragons, who throws in tile floors and sumptuously clumsy fireplaces, who calls a building fireproof, with a heating plant in the basement, and who puts a plate over the entrance, reading, library hall, date.

Among the problems of a college library that of having a suitable building is the foremost. The plan of the building should be approved by one or more (better more) practical librarians.

A college librarian is bound to meet and decide for himself the troublesome question of classification. (Mr Babine gave a detailed account of a classification which he thought admirably suited to a college library, and which will be published later.)

The staff of a college library must possess many qualifications but, above all, familiarity with foreign languages. Improvements in spelling foreign languages ought not to be indulged in, and least of all before their grammars are mastered, or before titles are cut down with due respect for sense and meaning. The importance of the staff's service and its right to an independent existence must be recognized by the college authorities.

A college library ought to be to an extent a library school. It should not refuse to give instruction in details of library work. The bibliographic equipment of a college library should fully satisfy its own practical needs and serve as a sample collection for those interested in library work. Mr Babine closed his address with a stirring appeal to men of means, for the endowment and equipment of a college library in Indiana that shall redeem the lack of munificence now existing along that line.

This was followed by a most excellent paper on Library and clubs, by Merica Hoagland, president of the Indiana Union of literary clubs. She showed how the clubs could aid the library and help themselves. It was so



practical that PUBLIC LIBRARIES will try to give it in full at a later date.

This paper was followed by the presentation of the outline of a library bill proposed by the teachers' committee, to be presented to the next legislature. It was given by Supt. Goss, of Indianapolis, and provoked much discussion.

Rutherford P. Hayes was next introduced to the association, and expressed the opinion that it was a better plan to divorce the library management from the schools—library committees should be separate bodies, free from school authorities' supervision. He then spoke of the plans and purposes of the A. L. A., and urged an interest in it by those present. He gave an account of library commissions and their work, particularly of the Ohio commission. The expression of opinion at the close of the session showed his view of library management was more favored than that presented by the teachers. Wednesday night the usual reception was given the librarians and their friends by the Bowen-Merrill Co., in the Commercial club parlors. Mr Hayes, Miss Hoagland, and Miss Marvin were the guests of honor. Refreshments were served, and a delighted company lingered till a late hour.

The session was opened Thursday morning by Miss Marvin on reference work. This was a general talk on the objects and methods of reference work. The fact that the books were to be brought to readers, as well as the readers to the books, was emphasized. Work with individuals, schools, clubs, factories, etc., was dwelt upon. Reference books and such aids as indexes and guides were mentioned. Valuable library bulletins and reference lists were exhibited and the manner of compiling these explained.

The arguments for and against access to the shelves were briefly stated, and a general discussion followed.

In library literature, periodicals, handbooks, catalogs, reports, etc., of special value to librarians were described and exhibited. The importance of a librarian keeping in touch with all the liter-

ature of his profession was urged. This finished the practical work of the institute to the eminent satisfaction of all in attendance, the only regret expressed being in regard to the limited time of the meetings. An urgent request was made for a longer session at another time. The reports from the various committees were submitted and adopted. A vote of thanks was given to the libraries of Ft. Wayne, Indianapolis, Evansville, Terre Haute and Franklin college, to the Bowen-Merrill Co., and Library Bureau, for contributions in defraying the expenses. By the courtesy of the Library Bureau, Chicago, there was a display of all the labor-saving devices, library fittings and modern devices recommended for use by the A. L. A.

The officers elected for the year are Elizabeth D. Swan, of Purdue university, president; J. S. Leach, Kokomo, vice-president; M. E. Ahern, secretary and treasurer.

**Iowa**—The seventh annual session of the library society was held in Des Moines, December 29-31, and proved to be one of unusual interest and enthusiasm. The society met as the Library section of the State teachers' association, this being the third meeting which it has held in this relation with the teachers' organization. The following program had been prepared and was fully carried out:

History of library work in Iowa, W. H. Johnston, president board of trustees, public library, Fort Dodge.

Advantages of a state library commission, W. P. Payne, president board of trustees, public library, Nevada.

How to select and purchase books, Elizabeth Peterson, librarian, Council Bluffs.

The proper relation between the library and the public, Mrs Rosa Oberholtzer, librarian, Sioux City.

Care and use of public documents, J. R. Orwig, State library, Des Moines.

Cataloging, Abbie R. Knapp, cataloger public library, Des Moines.

Reports. Election of officers.

Value of a public library to a community, Mrs M. P. Scheeler, librarian, Marshalltown.

General questions and discussions.

The papers were carefully prepared, and the helpful points of each were developed by the full discussion by which it was followed.

The history of library work in Iowa was helpful as well as interesting, and pointed out its future possibilities.

The advantages of a State library commission were so clearly set forth that before the close of the meeting the society decided that another and a very vigorous attempt should be made to secure such commission. During the last session of the legislature a bill providing for the appointment of library commissioners was introduced, but failed of final passage.

The paper upon the Selection and purchase of books, suggested that the plan of purchasing from a large central house assured better service than the local dealer could give as a rule.

In the paper upon the Relations between the library and the public, the fact was emphasized that there is no place in a library for low ideals or poor work, and that the "most perfect courtesy, the best manners, the widest intelligence," are not too good for everyday library uses.

To the average librarian the public documents department of the library is not a fascinating one, but the paper upon the care and use of public documents made a dry subject seem full of interest. Attention was called to the various indexes which have been published as aids in utilizing this rich material.

The lesson in cataloging was given in detail, with blackboard illustration, was eminently practical in its character, and very helpful to those wishing technical instruction.

The paper upon the Value of a public library to a community, claimed for the library a civic and economic value to the community at large, and to the individual a recreative and educational one. The recreative function was ac-

corded a place in the legitimate work of the public library, but the educational one was placed foremost, and the claim made that the library is becoming more and more the focus of all educational life.

The society decided to withdraw from connection with the teachers' association, and to maintain an independent organization. A majority of the members held that a larger attendance could be secured, and a stronger organization built up, if the meetings of the library society were held independently, and at a different time of year from those of the teachers' association. The society is to become an incorporated body, a committee composed of the following members having been appointed to draft articles of incorporation: C. H. Gatch, Mrs Lana H. Cope, J. W. Rich.

Officers for the year 1897 were elected as follows: President, W. H. Johnston, Fort Dodge; vice-president, W. P. Payne, Nevada; secretary, Ella M. McLoney, Des Moines; treasurer, Mrs Lana H. Cope, Des Moines.

The next meeting will be held in Des Moines, the date to be decided by an executive committee which is composed of the president and secretary ex-officio, Mary Cassidy, Winterset; Jennie Carpenter, Drake university, Des Moines, and J. W. Rich, State university.

**Menomonie, Wis.**—Something unique in the way of a librarians' meeting was held on the Friday following Thanksgiving, and was planned to gather the librarians and officers of Mr Stout's free traveling libraries, for the discussion of practical problems connected with their work, with special reference to inspiring the feeling that they were members of an honorable profession and co-workers with all other librarians and teachers in a broad system of education. The day was bitterly cold and followed some rainy weather. The rough roads and biting winds cut down the attendance somewhat, but quite a number of libraries were represented. One little library association, comprising only a dozen families, sent eight persons who

jolted back ten miles to their homes in the hills after 8 o'clock in the evening, facing a northwest wind with the thermometer at zero.

The Memorial building from which the traveling libraries are sent out, is a great stone structure which is finely equipped for social gatherings. In this the institute assembled, gathering about some grouped tables and drifting soon into frank and free informal discussions. Among the questions discussed were these: How can we secure the careful treatment of the books? How can we make regular patrons of the boys? How can we interest the teachers in sending their pupils? Can the libraries be used as centers to circulate magazines taken by members of the local associations? Can permanent libraries be built up at these traveling library centers? Can the small libraries be used to help students of special subjects to use the books of the large central library at Menomonie, from which the libraries are sent out?

The discussion showed that the small traveling libraries have fallen into the hands of people who are as true librarians in spirit as their comrades in the cities. These librarians receive no pay, and only people who love books and their neighbors will serve. All through the discussions ran a growing tone of hopefulness and courage, a feeling that in each of these isolated neighborhoods the library was to be a center, where the feeble intellectual and social life could be warmed and nourished to expand in many and, mayhap, unforeseen directions.

Many little incidents were told to show how much good the libraries were doing, and how highly they were appreciated. Many librarians seemed to feel that the copies of leading magazines and children's periodicals which are sent with each library, are doing as much good as the books. The Youth's Companions furnish practice in reading to the poor country boy who has only read elementary text books. The tired mothers read the short articles in Scribner's and McClure's, when the

books seem too long. The Harper's Weeklies give the boys and girls who gather at the winter firesides, glimpses of the new worlds. These papers and magazines are not returned with the libraries, but a fresh supply is sent each time a library makes a trip.

During the afternoon two hours were spent in a joint session with the Dunn county teachers. At this joint session a stimulating paper on Children's reading was presented by Lutie E. Stearns, of Milwaukee. Louise Sutermeister, of the Eau Claire library, read an interesting paper on Traveling libraries in other states. Della Waterston, of Knapp, described the work of a traveling library at Pleasant Valley, where she teaches a district school. Among those who took part in the informal discussions were J. H. Stout, Stella Lucas, of the Memorial library, M. A. Early, of the Chippewa Falls library, Prof W. C. Hewitt, of the Oshkosh normal school and F. A. Hutchins, of the Wisconsin free library commission.

**Milwaukee**—A meeting of the Milwaukee Round Table was held Friday, December 11, at 6 P. M.

After an informal luncheon, a report of the recent meeting of the Traveling library librarians' institute, at Menomonie, Wis., was given by Miss Stearns, who also read a paper written by a young teacher living at Pleasant Valley, Dunn Co., showing the good which has been accomplished through traveling libraries in her section.

Following this was an interesting paper by Miss Van Valkenburgh, on Book illustration, in which the old as well as the newest methods of illustration were most clearly described.

The meetings of the Round Table are inspiring and helpful to all members of the staff, and a full attendance is always the rule.

**Milwaukee**—On the morning of December 30, 1896, Melvil Dewey delivered the principal address at a general meeting of the Wisconsin Teachers' Association. He spoke on the Mission of the modern library, and gave an in-

teresting summary of library progress. Mr Dewey was followed by Miss Stearns and Mae Schriber, of Milwaukee; H. B. Hubbell, Beaver Dam; Prof. J. C. Freeman, University of Wisconsin; F. C. Patzer, Manitowoc, Wis., and R. B. Dudgeon, Madison.

President Albert Salisbury, of the Whitewater normal school, presented the report of a committee on needed library legislation.

In the afternoon the library section, conducted by Mr Hutchins, was opened by Melvil Dewey, who gave a talk on Proper methods of organizing libraries. Dr Peckham, of the Milwaukee library, gave a resumé of Wisconsin's library laws. Mary Edgar, Madison, explained her method of interesting pupils in such works as the *Lady of the lake*. Miss Schriber gave her methods of training pupils to read literature with pleasure.

The Milwaukee public library closed its doors on the morning of December 30, to enable all assistants to hear Mr Dewey's address and the succeeding discussion.

L. E. STEARNS.

**Minnesota**—The Minnesota library association held its fifth annual meeting December 29. A strong attempt had previously been made to make this year's meeting an especially large and profitable one, and the results were not disappointing. The State educational association, which met in St Paul on the same date, set aside one session of its meetings for the discussion of library matters. The program for this session was planned by the library association, and was a joint meeting of the two associations. This seems to be a good beginning toward establishing friendly relations throughout the state, between schools and libraries. It will at any rate go to prove that the two branches of educational work are aiming toward the same results, a point of view which people in Minnesota have not always been quick to take. The papers read before the joint meeting were as follows:

Library economy in the college curriculum, by Lettie Crafts, assistant li-

brarian of the State university; Correlation of the library and school, by Dr J. K. Hosmer, librarian of the Minneapolis public library; Minnesota district school libraries, by W. W. Pendergast, State superintendent of public instruction. All of these papers were listened to with interest, and went far to identify the work of the two associations. Miss Crafts' paper pleaded for a chair of bibliography in the college faculty and the systematic training of students in the use of the library. She also argued for a course in the university summer school which should give the teachers an opportunity of learning something of library economy. The growing high school and district libraries almost demand that the teachers should have at least an elementary knowledge of library science. Dr Hosmer's paper outlined the method employed in Minneapolis of sending books into the outlying schools, as closely resembling the traveling library system. The teachers come to the library, choose the books which they prefer for that period, then these are sent in a neat case, about 100 volumes at a time, directly to the school room. So teacher and librarian combine to train the reading habits of the children.

The afternoon session held in the Minneapolis public library was a very interesting session; over 35 members were present, representing the libraries of St Paul, Minneapolis, State university, Duluth, St Cloud, Mankato, Rochester, Redwing, Anoka and Stillwater. The president, Dr W. W. Folwell, was absent, and Dr J. K. Hosmer, of Minneapolis, presided. The papers on the following topics were uniformly good: Impressions of the A. L. A. meeting at Cleveland, by Miss Neff, of Duluth; The public from the librarian's point of view, by Miss Guthrie, of the State university; The library and the children, by Jessie Pratt, of the Minneapolis public library; Methods of raising funds for town libraries, by Mrs Tomlinson, of St Peter.

The reports from the various town libraries showed great progress during



the past year, and left one with the impression that the Minnesota library spirit is awakening. A brief summary of the reports is as follows: Anoka library, supported by taxation, occupies a pleasant suite of rooms, has 2,581v., and circulated in 1896 over 20,000v.; 1,203 borrowers use the library, out of a population of 4,000.

Redwing library, a free library supported by taxation, reports 1,888v., and a circulation of nearly 20,000 a year. The librarian says that their chief problem is how to keep the books from wearing out—a problem that confronts any library with a large circulation.

The Stillwater library, a subscription library, charging \$3 a year for membership, reports a library of 4,742v., and a circulation of 6,528 books among 122 families. Lack of funds is its great drawback, and measures will be taken in the near future to make it a free public library. At present it is open but two days a week.

The St Cloud library has this year moved into more commodious quarters, two large, well-lighted, steam-heated rooms. The librarian reports a very progressive line of work with the children. "Cutting bees" with the teachers have been held to preserve pictures. Children are allowed to have cards as soon as they can carry a book safely. For the very little children, nursery books and a half dozen stereoscopes with views, have been purchased.

The Rochester library has this year been reorganized under the state laws, and given over to the city. They have received a bequest of \$5,000 for a building, which will be begun in the spring of 1897. They have also had a gift of \$5,000 for books, provided certain infidel and atheistic books should be placed on the shelves. There are at present 4,500v. in the library and a circulation of 17,000.

The Mankato library, not yet two years old, has 4,000v., takes 50 magazines, and has a circulation of about 30,000. Magazines over a month old are circulated, the fiction is kept behind the attendant's desk, but all other vol-

umes are free of access, a plan which has reduced the percentage of fiction reading.

St Peter, a library newly started by the efforts of some enthusiastic women, reported 546 books in the library, and a circulation of 600 in one month.

After the reports, an interesting exercise was held in the shape of a Question box, conducted by Mrs McCaine, librarian of St Paul. The election of officers resulted in a re-election of all the previous incumbents.

The evening session found 45 present. The chief paper of the evening was by M. J. Evans, of Carleton college, Northfield. She spoke on the subject of How best to render the college student familiar with the college library. Her remarks were especially helpful to college librarians, and set forth particularly the field of usefulness which is open to college libraries, but every librarian present felt that her own horizon had been enlarged, and that many of the suggestions were applicable to her own case. Miss Countryman followed with a paper on the need of a State library commission, and gave briefly some facts in regard to the bill which is to be introduced this winter in the State legislature, and the laws already in force in other states.

Then followed a pleasant social session. The galleries of the library had been lighted, and the association was taken through the building to see the picture gallery and the collection of casts which has recently been placed in the building. And so closed the best meeting which the association has ever held.

GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN, *Sec'y.*

**New England**—The second union meeting of the library associations of New England will be held at Hartford, Conn., Wednesday, February 3. An interesting program has been prepared. Charles Dudley Warner will make the principal address.

**New York**—The New York library association held a joint meeting with the

New York library club at the Art building, Brooklyn, January 14, 1897.

There were about 150 present, including several visitors from other states. The president, J. N. Larned, of Buffalo, was detained at home by the movement in his own city for placing the Buffalo library on a broader basis as a free library supported by public taxation. His personal influence in promoting this change was needed at a critical moment. The vice-president, C. A. Nelson, occupied the chair at the morning session, and A. E. Bostwick, vice-president of the New York library club, presided in the afternoon.

After a few words of greeting from the chairman, W. R. Eastman, of Albany, read a paper on Library progress in the state. New York city paid \$40,000 to aid three free circulating libraries in 1894, and pays \$96,700 to 10 such libraries in 1897. Their circulation the last year was 1,529,385, an increase of 350,000 in two years. Under the operation of the university law of 1892, 106 libraries have been chartered, 22 others admitted as university institutions, and 41 others registered as maintaining a proper standard.

The free libraries have increased from 238 in 1893, 293 in 1894, and 309 in 1895, to 351 in 1896, a growth of 113 or 47 per cent in three years. Their volumes were 1,049,869 in 1894, 1,127,199 in 1895, and 1,313,299 in 1896. Their circulation was 2,293,861 in 1893, 2,766,973 in 1894, 3,146,405 in 1895, and 3,933,623 in 1896; the greatest advance being in the last year. Thirty-six new library buildings were mentioned including the magnificent edifice now in course of construction for Columbia university in New York, for which President Seth Low has given \$1,000,000.

Prof. Richard Jones, State literature inspector, from the regent's office, spoke on the importance of cultivating the literature of power, which was now so little read by the average American. He said that twice, in Philadelphia and Chicago, he had been unable to secure from all the book stores 25 copies of a great literary masterpiece such as Mil-

ton or Dante, for the use of a literature class. He urged librarians to coöperate with the schools in creating a taste for the best literature.

The principal topic of the morning, What should librarians read? was discussed by librarians representing different classes of local libraries. George H. Baker, of Columbia university, said that he could no longer get time for much personal reading and proposed that librarians should farm out topics to specialists, depending on their suggestions for guidance in buying and recommending books.

W. A. Bardwell, of the Brooklyn library, pointed out that librarians who were really enough interested could read many books by utilizing the odd minutes in going to and from the library in the trolley car, and by snatching every available bit of leisure during the day.

A. E. Bostwick, of the New York free circulating library, and Wilberforce Eames, of the Lenox library, continued the discussion.

Melvil Dewey, director of the State library, said that librarians ought to take their own medicine, and had no more right to expect to do their personal reading in office hours than had the cashier of a bank or an engineer. Librarians were paid better salaries, given shorter hours and longer vacations because their work was being recognized as professional. That meant that they should take time for preparation, not only before entering their profession, but daily while carrying it on.

The officers for 1897 were elected as follows: President, A. L. Peck, Gloversville public library; vice-presidents, Willis A. Bardwell, Brooklyn public library, Miss E. G. Baldwin, Teachers' college, New York; secretary, W. R. Eastman, State library, Albany; treasurer, J. N. Wing, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. At 1 o'clock the meeting adjourned.

The afternoon meeting began at 2:30. The public libraries division of the state submitted a printed list of 489 of the best books published in 1896, classi-

fied by subjects. It asks the librarians of the state to indicate the best 50 of these books for a village library. The afternoon was given up to a discussion of these books by librarians who had been assigned special topics, as follows: Reference books, W. T. Peoples, New York; Philosophy and ethics, Religion, E. C. Richardson, Princeton, N. J.; Social science, Education, Prof Giddings, New York; Science, Useful arts, T. L. Montgomery, Philadelphia; Fine Arts, Amusements and sports, C. A. Cutter, Northampton, Mass.; Fiction, H. E. Haines, New York; Language, Literature, M. L. Davis, Brooklyn; Travel, Mary W. Plummer, Brooklyn; Biography, Mary S. Cutler, Albany; History, J. N. Larned, Buffalo; Juvenile books, Caroline M. Hewins, Hartford, Conn.

Dinner was served at 6 p. m. at the Clarendon hotel. At 8 o'clock a well-attended public meeting was held at the Academy of music in the interest of a public library for Brooklyn.

An act was passed in 1892, permitting the issue of \$600,000 of bonds to build a library building and cover other expenses. The act likewise authorized the appointment of a board of nine directors to take charge of the money. Nothing was done toward pushing the matter until a year ago, when the free library association was organized.

The common council having already voted to establish such a library, the mayor sent to the meeting the announcement of the appointment of the following trustees: ex-Mayor Charles A. Schieren, ex-Mayor David A. Boody, Charles M. Pratt, D. W. McWilliams, Colonel Willis L. Ogden, Tax collector R. Ross Appleton, Herbert F. Gunnison, Major John D. Keiley and Charles M. Chadwick.

Addresses were made by ex-Mayor D. A. Boody, who presided, and by Rev. Dr Storrs, Father E. W. McCarty, Andrew Carnegie, Frederick Pratt, Dr J. S. Billings, and Melvil Dewey, state librarian. It was an enthusiastic and successful meeting and full of promise for the future of library interests in the city of Brooklyn.

**N. Wisconsin**—The second meeting of the North Wisconsin traveling library association was held in the Vaughn library, Ashland, December 28, 1896.

The meeting was well attended and enthusiastic throughout. The organization was perfected, and ways and means for doing this important work were discussed. The president appointed three committees as follows: One on soliciting and selecting books, one on soliciting money, and one on soliciting members. Terms of membership in the association are signing the constitution and the payment during the year of \$1 in money or its equivalent in books.

It was decided to send out, if possible, ten libraries before the first of February and to confine the work to Ashland, Bayfield, Sawyer, Price and Iron counties. To get the work properly started \$200 is needed, and this the committee on money expect to raise at once.

The secretary reported that since the foundation of the association, between 60 and 70 books and a large number of magazines have been donated by the people of Ashland.

Already a large number of applications have been sent in for the libraries as soon as they are ready.

JANET M. GREEN, *Sec'y.*

**Pennsylvania**—The December meeting was held at the Drexel institute on Monday evening, December 14, 98 members being present.

After an examination of some of the rare books in the Drexel institute library which were exhibited by Miss Kroeger, the meeting was called to order by the vice-president T. L. Montgomery, in the unavoidable absence of the president J. G. Rosengarten.

The principal business of the evening was a discussion upon the life and works of Robert Burton.

Dr McAlister, the president of the Drexel institute, opened the discussion by some reminiscences of his enjoyment of the Anatomy of melancholy, when a young student.

Mr Thomson of the free library followed with an account of the life of this strange character of the literary world. He explained that little was known of his life from the fact that he was a bookworm in the best sense of the word, and for twenty years devoted himself to reclusive studies in the Bodleian library, in which building he amassed the material for a large part of his extraordinary work on Melancholy. The speaker gave illustrations of Burton's characteristics taken from Hearne, Disraeli, Anthony A. Wood, Notes and Queries, and other places in which anecdotes are to be found. The sad "fact" that Burton did not write the Anatomy, was properly ridiculed, and proper joy expressed that we owe this work to Bacon who so kindly gave us his own books, the Shakespeare plays, the Anatomy of melancholy, and a few other hundred series of works which have passed hitherto under the names of other authors. The nineteenth-century higher criticism has become slightly monotonous in proving (forgive the expression) that nobody wrote anything, but that it was always some other fellow who did it.

Mary Farr, now librarian of the Girls' normal school, and formerly first assistant at the West Philadelphia branch of the free library, followed with an admirably written paper dealing with the bibliographical and literary merits of Burton's works. Her troubles in dealing with the Latin portions were humorously described, and she gave good advice to other readers in telling them that if they did not know Latin, the best plan was to look in a note for the translation, and if no such note was given, then pass on to the next paragraph.

Miss Farr was complimented by the chairman for her successful paper, and the club proceeded to discuss other business.

With reference to the continuation of the Ames catalog it was explained, on behalf of the committee who had charge of this matter, that the club did not desire to express any opinion as to

the person who should be selected to make the continuation, and that an interview had been asked with Mr Harmer in order that the committee might lay before him reasons that pressed urgently for the continuance of the catalog, and that he had promised to accord them an early meeting.

The action of the committee was unanimously approved.

The next meeting of the club will be held in the buildings of the Commercial museums of Philadelphia, when Professor Wilson the director of the institution will deliver an address on The true interrelations of libraries and museums. A very pleasant evening is expected.

Philadelphia—The Pennsylvania library club held a meeting, January 11, in the library rooms of the Philadelphia museums. In the absence of Mr Rosengarten, owing to sickness, John Thomson, of the Free library, was called to the chair. After some formal business the following officers for the years 1897-98 were nominated: President, Henry J. Carr, Scranton; vice-president, John Thomson, Free library of Philadelphia, and Robert P. Bliss, Bucknell library, Chester, Pa.; treasurer, Miss Sheldon, Drexel institute; secretary, Mary P. Farr, librarian Girls' normal school. The executive committee will be appointed by the incoming president.

Professor William Wilson, director of the museums, then delivered a short address upon the Proper interrelations between libraries and museums. He dwelt upon the character of the literature which was being collected, necessarily confined to such books as consular reports, statistical journals, and writings which dealt with the production and development of manufactures. One result of the Professor's work has been a plan to introduce the growth of rubber into Florida. A representative of the museum will spend a year in the upper parts of the Amazon, making a study and collection of all that is material to the proper cultiva-



tion and growth of rubber. The natives may not be very highly educated, but they have been sharp enough hitherto whenever seeds have been purchased and taken from the country, to boil them before parting with them, thereby rendering them entirely unproductive.

After the address he took the members round various parts of the museum and gave a most interesting talk on the system pursued, showing in this commercial museum the gradual use of fibrous matters from their existence as living plants, through successive processes, till they become cloths and other mercantile articles.

The next meeting of the club will be held at the Wagner institute, February 4. The subject of discussion will be the Life and works of the Rev. William Barham. Lorin Blodget, jr, of the Roxborough branch, will read a paper on the life of the author, and Edith Ridgway, of the catalog department, will review his works.

**W. Pennsylvania**—On January 14, the Western Pennsylvania library club met at the Carnegie free library of Allegheny. The subject for discussion was Library legislation. Reports on the present laws of various states had been prepared by members of the club, and these were read to show the methods employed in other states for the advancement of library interests. A general discussion followed. A letter from John Thomson, of the Philadelphia free library was read, outlining the plans for legislation, of the librarians in the eastern part of the state. The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

WHEREAS, The state of Pennsylvania, according to the last census, though second in wealth and population, ranks last among the 20 important northern states in the number of books in public libraries per 1,000 inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, this condition of things is largely due to the lack of progressive library laws, in comparison with other important states;

*Resolved*, That the Western Pennsyl-

vania library club is in favor of further legislation to promote the establishment and maintenance of free public libraries throughout the state;

*Resolved*, Further, that in view of the excellent results obtained by means of traveling libraries in other states, and the evident demand for libraries of this kind throughout Pennsylvania, the club favors an appropriation by the state for this purpose.

It was decided to appoint a committee to confer with friends of libraries and representatives throughout the state, with a view to drafting a plan of general library legislation for Pennsylvania. There was a good attendance, and the experiment of a morning hour proved a decided success. The subject for discussion at the March meeting will be The library and the children.

WM RICHARD WATSON,

*Sec'y-Treas.*

### New York State Library School

Ellen D. Biscoe, class '96, has been elected librarian of the Eau Claire (Wis.) public library in place of Louise Sutermeister, class '90, resigned. E. M. Edwards, class '96 (undergraduate) takes Miss Biscoe's place at the Buffalo historical society library.

Elizabeth Hale, class '96 (undergraduate), is rearranging the library at Miss Porter's school for girls, Farmington, Conn.

Nellie McCreary, class '94 (undergraduate), has resigned her position as cataloger at the St Louis public library and was married December 3 to Joseph Walter De Laughter.

May Payne, who took the cataloger's course with the class of '93, has been appointed on the library commission of the Woman's board of the Tennessee centennial exposition.

The social side of life at the Albany school is pleasantly provided for this year.

Mr and Mrs Dewey welcome school and staff fortnightly for a social evening, including dancing, billiards, and other amusements. Miss Cutler re-

ceives the school and faculty each month, providing some intellectual accompaniment to the social element. In October, Cyrus Lathrop, at the head of the Albany Boys' club, gave a most interesting account of the workings of the junior republic at Freeville, N. Y., where he spent two months last summer in active work. In November Prof Burr, of Cornell university, spoke on the history and peculiarities of the manuscript treasures of Europe.

At a recent meeting of the executive committee of the New York State library school alumni association, Frederick M. Crunden, of the St Louis public library, was unanimously chosen to deliver the annual address before the association at Albany this spring. Mr Crunden is recognized as one of the foremost strong librarians of the day and the alumni are to be congratulated at their good fortune in securing him.

#### Armour institute

Upon invitation of Miss Sharp and the library staff, Chicago library club met Mr Dewey at the institute on New Year's Eve. Mr Dewey gave an informal talk on the possible future of the Congressional library, outlining a plan whereby it might be made the center of the educational life of the country, as well as the greatest library in the world.

On January 14, Almon Burtch, of the library department of A. C. McClurg & Co., talked to the junior class on Bookbuying, giving practical suggestions on library buying and best methods of ordering, from the bookseller's point of view.

Irving Way has begun a series of ten lectures on Bookmaking, illustrated by interesting manuscripts and rare books. The topics are as follows: 1. Introduction. 2. Preparation of Mss. 3. Selection of types and page form. 4. Machine vs. hand composition. 5. Preparation of proof in galley and page form. 6. Selection of paper. 7. Ink and press work. 8. Illustration. 9. Decoration. 10. Sending of press copies and marketing of books.

### News from the Library Field

#### East

M. J. Banks has been elected librarian of Norwich, Vt.

Emma Martin has been re-elected librarian of Cheshire, Mass.

Caroline E. Moore has been elected librarian of Westbrook, Conn.

The Plymouth public library has received \$1,000 by the will of the late W. G. Russell, of Boston.

H. L. Robinson has been appointed librarian of Avon, Mass., and Lottie Howard assistant librarian.

The report of G. V. Wheelock, of Chicopee (Mass.) public library, shows a circulation of 27,651v. for 1896, and an addition of 969v.

Stoughton, Mass., receives \$25,000 for the purchase of books for a free public library, by the will of Henry L. Pierce, of Massachusetts.

The Salem (Mass.) public library reports the circulation for the past year to have reached 109,117v., and the attendance in the reading room about 50,000.

The report of Librarian Gay of Watkinson library, of Hartford, shows 45,884v. in the library. A collection of pamphlets made by Noah Webster was received from the public library.

The report of Librarian W. K. Stetson, of New Haven (Conn.) public library, shows a circulation for the past year of 243,219v. not including extensive use in the public schools. Total number of card holders is 12,863.

The Waterville (Me.) public library in the three months of its existence has increased from 40cv. to 1,068v., of which 500v. are in circulation all the time, and there is also a decided improvement in the quality of the books circulated.

The public library of Bridgeport (Conn.) is holding a six weeks' exhibition of fine art. Most of the work is from the recent National academy exhibit of New York City. A great interest is manifested in the collection.

The Newburyport (Mass.) public library reports a progressive year. There have been added during the year 883 books, making a total of 31,731v., of which there was a circulation of 41,000v. A card catalog is being made and all the material of the library is being made accessible.

Rev. T. J. Conaty, lately appointed dean of the Catholic university at Washington, D. C., has been for many years a valued trustee of Worcester, Mass., public library. The directors, G. Stanley Hall, chairman, passed very gratifying resolutions in regard to his services to the library, on his withdrawal from the board.

#### Central Atlantic

Mrs J. L. Boyd has been appointed librarian of Harlem library, New York city.

A complete set of the Grolier club publications was recently sold at a Bangs auction in New York for \$900.

Osna Rood, for eight years cataloger at Newberry library, Chicago, has been added to the catalog force of Astor library, New York.

The Newark (N. J.) public library has received from the estate of Dr A. Coles the celebrated statue of Benjamin Franklin and his whistle, executed in Carrara marble, made in Italy by Pasquale Romanelli. It attracted great attention at the Centennial in 1876.

An increase in appropriations has been made by the Board of estimates of New York city for the public libraries of that city. The N. Y. free circulating library gets \$50,000, Aguilar library \$20,000, Mechanics' library \$15,000 and the smaller libraries a proportionate increase.

Carnegie library at Pittsburg has recently been given a very valuable collection of nearly 200 bound volumes of newspapers. One set is a complete file of Pittsburg newspapers from 1846 to the present time; another is a continuous file of the New York Tribune from the early 50's.

#### Central

L. A. Hendricks has been elected librarian of Port Huron, Mich.

Birdelle Keysar has been appointed assistant in the Williams free library at Beaver Dam, Wis., to succeed Laura Martin, resigned.

The seventh annual report of the Minneapolis public library shows 8,607v. added; 559,053v. circulated; salaries of 46 employees, \$22,743.

By the will of the late C. H. Janes, of Hiawatha, Kan., \$1,000 and his private collection of books are given to the Hiawatha public library.

Librarian Kephart, of the Mercantile library, St. Louis, reports an addition of 5,000v. during the past year, making a total of 97,000v. in the library.

The traveling library idea has been introduced in the outlying school districts of Columbus, O., by Librarian Hensel, of the public school library.

The public library of Wichita, Kan., has reached 5,000v. and under the management of Miss Grose is fast becoming one of the leading public libraries in Kansas.

Indianapolis public library has opened nine delivery stations and four branch libraries. A system of circulation through the schools of the city is also under consideration.

The new library at La Porte, Ind., is nearing completion. The librarian, Jennie B. Jessup, would like to receive from a number of libraries the rules and regulations for a library, which seem to work successfully.

The Case library, of Cleveland, has put in a circulating library of music. This is the only library in the West doing this kind of work, and only one library in the East has made a success of it—the Brooklyn library.

The second annual report of Julia M. Jones, of the Galena (Ill.) public library gives no. of books in library, 3,389; cards held, 1,476; no. of visitors

to reading room, 32,569; circulation, 25,327v.; per cent of fiction, 89.

A gift of \$10,000 was made to Owatonna, Minn., by the late Mrs E. V. Hunewill for the purpose of providing a public library for the town. The gift is accompanied by the provision that Owatonna is to provide an additional \$15,000.

Centerville, Ia., is striving to meet the requirement of the Bowen bequest of \$1,000, to be given toward starting a public library as soon as the citizens raise \$2,000. The women of the city have taken the matter in charge and no doubt it will be successful.

Dr G. E. Wire delivered a very interesting address on the medical library as a factor in medical progress, before the Cleveland medical library association, December 7. The Cleveland medical library, though only two years old, has 2,000v. and \$7,000 permanent fund. The books are now deposited with the Case library.

One of the private treasures of the West is the library of Col. R. T. Durrett, of Louisville, Ky. It has 20,000v. bearing upon the history of the Northwest. Roosevelt, Warner, English, Banta, and other writers on this topic found this library a reliable source of information. It contains many valuable historic pictures, relics, and weapons.

The report of Mrs M. C. Spencer, State librarian of Michigan, shows the State library doing a fine work. New catalogs for the law library and the miscellaneous collection have been completed. The traveling libraries are a success. Twelve libraries in the state have become associated with the State library and are allowed to borrow its books.

Rev. J. L. Grover, city librarian of Columbus, O., celebrated his 91st birthday on December 12. He is a remarkably well-preserved man, and is at his desk every day. He has been librarian of Columbus for more than 20 years, and is probably the oldest libra-

rian in the West, if not in America. The trustees took advantage of the reception given him by the library force to announce that hereafter he should be known as Library Counselor with full salary, but exemption from the labors of an active librarian. J. J. Pugh was selected as librarian. He has been in the library 15 years.

#### West

Librarian J. F. Davies, of Butte, Mont., furnishes a column and a half of library news to the papers of Montana every week. Lists and reviews of new books make up a large part of the material. This library issues a typewritten list of new books received monthly, which is sold for 10 cents.

The library building of Nebraska City, Neb., is completed externally, and will probably be opened to the public by March. It is of brick with red tile roof. It has a stack room 32 x 25, reading room 28 x 20, museum room 28 x 25, and directors' room 12 x 10. It is presented to the city by Joy Morton, of Chicago, whose father, the present Secretary of agriculture, has interested himself considerably in the undertaking. It is hoped to make the library especially rich in historical material, touching particularly the early period and development of the Missouri river cities and the West in general. As a library, proper attention will be given toward making it useful to the schools and to the young men employed in the manufacturing industries of the city. An existing organization, the Ladies' library association, itself the heir to several preceding clubs, will turn over to the library 2,000v. of assorted matter, mainly fiction. Gifts of books that anybody is giving away will be welcomed, especially periodicals.

**Wanted.**—Position as librarian of small library, or of one just starting. Have had four years' experience in general library work, and have been especially successful with children and with reference work. Address MAY LOWE, Box 388, Circleville, Ohio.



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## The Atlantic Monthly for 1897.

From *The Outlook*, January 2, 1897.

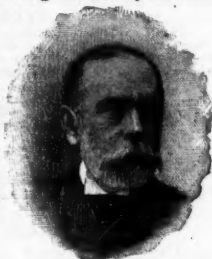
"In these days, when sensationalism and straining after effect seem to be prime motives in journalism and periodical literature, it is always a relief, a pleasure, and an encouragement to turn to the pages of the '*Atlantic Monthly*.' The oldest literary magazine published in this country, it has possessed throughout its long career an unshaken reputation for solidity of character and finish of workmanship that has given it an enviable position among American periodicals. Its announcements for 1897 promise that the high standards of its past—standards set by Hawthorne, Emerson, Lowell, Holmes, Longfellow, Whittier, Parkman, and others of that illustrious group of men of letters—will be maintained with catholic taste, human sympathy, and trained skill. It deserves to have conferred upon it by a convocation of its contemporaries, in which '*The Outlook*' would be glad to join, the honorary title of *Exemplar literarum humanarum*. It professes on its title page to be devoted to 'literature, science, art, and politics,' and it lives up to its profession."

A Leading Feature for 1897 will be

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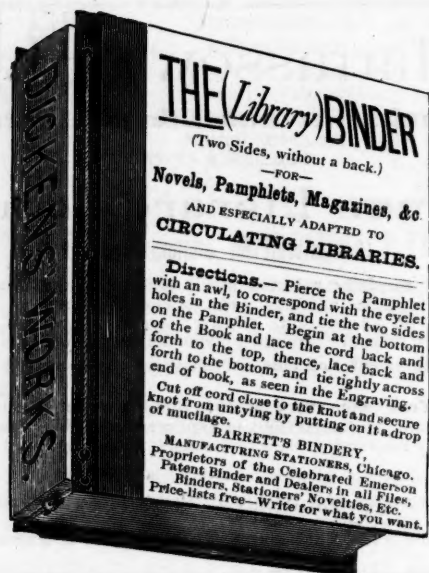
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